



PULLORUM DISEASE & FOWL TYPHOID

FACT SHEET

WHAT IS PULLORUM DISEASE & FOWL TYPHOID?

Pullorum and fowl typhoid (PT) are septicemic diseases, primarily in chickens and turkeys, caused by gram negative bacteria, *Salmonella gallinarum* and *S. pullorum*. Fowl typhoid should not be confused with typhoid fever in humans, which is caused by a distinctly different organism. While both diseases can affect growing or mature flocks, pullorum disease usually affects young poultry.

CLINICAL SIGNS

Clinical signs of PT may include:

- Anorexia
- Depression
- Diarrhea
- Dying or death (highest mortality rate in the first two weeks of life and in incubators)
- Labored breathing
- Decreased egg production
- High fever
- Poor hatchability

TRANSMISSION

PT is usually transmitted via contact with infected birds or transmitted from hens to chicks through the egg. The diseases can also spread by contaminated feed, water, and litter. Since the organisms can stay alive for months, the pullorum and typhoid bacteria can be mechanically transmitted from one site to another on shoes, clothing, vehicles, or equipment that has not been properly disinfected.

DIAGNOSIS

Although an outbreak of PT may result in high mortality, some birds will survive and become disease carriers for life. If these birds are introduced into a new flock, they can start the cycle of disease over again.

Many poultry and bird diseases can present similar signs. Unexpected, high mortalities or widespread, unusual illness affecting the flock should be reported to your veterinarian, the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL), or to the TAHC, so samples may be collected and submitted for laboratory testing.

REPORTING PT

Pullorum and fowl typhoid must be reported to the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) within 24 hours of diagnosis. Reports can be made to a TAHC Region Office.

PREVENTION

The practice and enforcement of consistent biosecurity measures on poultry and fowl premises can help reduce the risk and prevent the spread of PT.

TREATMENT

There is no treatment for PT, but strong biosecurity measures help protect flocks from the disease.

TESTING REQUIREMENTS

Poultry going to public exhibition or public sale must be tested and found free of infection or originate from a certified clean flock. A PT test is required to sell live poultry from any location, even your own premises. The TAHC Domestic and Exotic Fowl Registration Program is required for public sale, along with a PT test. For more information about the TAHC Domestic and Exotic Fowl Registration Program visit: <https://bit.ly/3NgIE0s>

